American Library Association
Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS)
2004 Annual Conference
Orlando FL
Minutes

Meeting: Saturday, June 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Orange County Convention Center, Room 221 E

Members: Dan O’Connor, chair
          Dianne Carty      Elizabeth Titus
          Leslie Manning   Stephen Wiberley
          Joseph J. Mika   Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Intern
          Scott Nicholson  Kassundra Miller, Intern

Staff: Kat Bork, Administrative Assistant, Office for Research & Statistics
       Gerald Hodges, Associate Executive Director, Communications and Marketing

Visitors: Michael Golrick (Executive Board)
          Sharyn Ladner      Betsy Park
          Debbie Malone     Barbara Smith (IMLS)
          Bob Molyneux (NCLIS)  Will Wakeling

Meeting Management:

1. Introductions were made. Dan O’Connor expressed the committee’s appreciation for Kat Bork’s work in the interim since Mary Jo Lynch’s retirement. The committee gave Kat a round of applause because she is leaving ALA.

2. Approval of minutes from Midwinter 2004 (San Diego CA) – No changes were made and the minutes were approved.

3. Approval of agenda for meeting at Annual Conference 2004 (Orlando FL)
   Leslie Manning asked for details on the IMLS, ALA Member and Salary Surveys. Sylvia Hall-Ellis said that the Council would be sending CORS a request to produce another Diversity Survey, similar to what was done in the past. With these additions the agenda was approved.

Continuing Business:

1. Report of chair
   Dan O’Connor ordered the committee to attend the CORS program on Sunday and to bring two friends. He mentioned the IMLS issue. In San Diego, CORS agreed that Keith Curry Lance would send a letter to Bob Martin, but then Keith declined to write the letter mid-year because he it was discovered that he was actually not a member of CORS. Dan is following up on this issue will be emailing CORS more information on the IMLS grant after Annual.
2. ALA Member and Salary Surveys
Gerald Hodges reported on that the Member Survey is still open. ALA is trying to hear from as many voices as possible in drafting the focus of ALA. He encouraged the committee to fill out the survey on the ALA site. There have been over 11,000 responses as of last Thursday. The survey closes July 4th. There will be a planning session in mid-September in Chicago to make decisions based on the survey. The results will be published on the web and in *American Libraries*. Leslie Manning mentioned that two divisions have sent out similar surveys to gauge what members think.

On the subject of the annual *Survey of Librarian Salaries*, ORS is working on this project with the Library Research Center of the University of Illinois. LRC will give the data to ORS in early August. The report will be published in September. Gerald stated that Mary Jo Lynch would help write the report. This year’s supplementary question covered support staff job titles for use in a separate survey on support staff. It was noted by CORS that the trend of broad banding, collapsing titles for flexibility, is happening across the country in universities. The broad banding concept is an attempt to do away with titles. Leslie said the supplementary question was almost impossible to answer within a state personnel system. Reporting functions rather than classifications would be a better method.

3. Report of staff liaison
Kat reported that the Fyan Grant chair retired and the ALA Award Committee will appoint a new chair.

4. Library Research Seminar III
Dan reported LRSIII will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. He told CORS members to show up with two friends.

5. Library Research Seminar IV
Steve Wiberley explained that LRRT hopes to announce a location for LRSIV at LRSIII. The seminar is sponsored by LRRT and then becomes property of the hosting institution. LRRT is currently searching for the next site.

New Business:

6. IFLA Nominee
This is a multi-year appointment. Gerald will check with Michael Dowling, head of International Relations, to see when the next nomination is due.

7. Current status of search for ORS Director
Gerald reported that ALA has interviewed and made an offer to a candidate. He will know this person’s answer at beginning of next week. Dan represented CORS on the Search Committee. Gerald will try to get the new Director in the office ASAP if this person accepts.
8. “Ahead to 2010” – ALA’s strategic plan
Dan had a discussion on this topic with Keith Michael Fiels in New Jersey. Keith wants
to get ALA’s strategic plan positioned for 2010. Research value is an issue CORS can
focus on and should make goals for doing this. Dan asked for volunteers for a
subcommittee to write an issue statement. Leslie and Sylvia will write a paragraph
statement on research value and submit it to the committee after Annual. When the
statement is perfected, it will go to ALA via Gerald. This must be done by the middle of
September 2004.

9. April 14th Washington meeting: Research Summit.
Dan passed out handout of the summit’s key points. The research value idea mentioned
above grew out of this meeting. The Washington Office and ORS are confronted by
immediate requests for information for which the staff doesn’t have answers. There
needs to be a connection between ALA’s world of theory and the real world. Dan
doesn’t want to tell researchers what to study unless they are offering financial support,
but to have a way to answering questions efficiently. Collection of data takes such a long
time, that questions are not answered while they are still current. Questions from 2-3
years ago can now be answered, but not current ones. Bob Molyneux had the idea of
doing a survey of a small group of school libraries every year. Gerald said an
overarching point was made that facts and stories make a one-two combination to take to
Congress for support of advocacy. Research and supporting stories together are a
beneficial tool for library advocacy. Bob said one cannot estimate how much libraries
spend; one can only make close guesses. For example, it is thought that school library
media expenditures and school scores are related, but this is not verifiable. Knowledge,
those things provided by books and libraries, are not measurable.

   a. Development of library indicators
      There are science indicators. These indicators might allow ALA to respond in a
      more forceful way to questions.

   b. Concept of library opportunity
      This concept would give the information of how much poor libraries versus rich
      libraries have concerning opportunity. The committee could make a discussion
      over email in the future.

10. Research Day at Midwinter
Dan conferred with Keith Michael Fiels, and Keith recommended running the Research
Day as a pre-conference. Dan gave handouts of his ideas and responses that his email
received from ALA and CORS. The idea is not to accept everything, but to be selective
with the Research Day. Gerald felt this concept is very timely. Dan thought Midwinter
2005 in Boston is too soon, but CORS could look towards Midwinter 2006 in San
Antonio. Leslie asked “Why a pre-conference? It is requires paying a fee in addition to
conference fees.” Dan said Keith made valid points for a pre-conference. Gerald said
budgeting conservatively should enable the pre-conference to come off and not be
canceled. Bob brought up the subject of mentoring. Surveys are done but not published
or articles are finished but then people don’t know where to submit to publications. Bob
thinks mentoring and leading by example could help get students used to publishing
research. Scott also mentioned the role of mentoring; one way to draw people to pre-conference is to bring them with offered help at the pre-conference. It could encourage librarians to come back next year with finished research. Dan described how LRRT used to rent a suite for members to stay in at conference. People would go to the suite to get help with research. It was staffed by people who taught methods courses at different schools. A small group of Scott, Sylvia, and Sharyn Ladner will get together and sketch out plan. Gerald will get the committee information on how to put together a pre-conference. The question was raised if lunch should be included in the pre-con fee? This will be considered closer to the time; most likely they will just let people out to dine on their own. Give them an hour and a half and let them go out for lunch in San Antonio. Dan said that after this, CORS should think about spearheading new ALA wide journal.

11. Report from Michael Golrick about the Executive Board.
Michael asked CORS to send him any questions or concerns. Dan wanted to know what are the two hottest issues at this conference. Michael answered they were:
   a. Core values statement and making part of ALA website be devoted to core values. Research is not currently a core value. The Executive Board wants a statement drafted and approved.
   b. Planning process for ALA Action 2010. This is not controversial, but it is critical.
Financing of new Washington space will also be a topic of discussion. Scott asked about the issue of protecting privacy/confidentiality concerning the library records of individuals. Michael said RFID and how it impacts libraries policies will be another topic of discussion. Scott is concerned that the research end of privacy issue will not be represented. Michael stated that they are working out ways to produce surveys that obtain the richness of the data, while at the same time protecting the privacy of users. Dan thanked Michael for coming to the meeting.

12. Program for 2005 Annual Conference in Chicago
The program tomorrow conflicts with several schedules. Leslie suggested the 2005 program be on Sunday morning. Dan noted that Council meetings take place then. The program at the next Annual is slotted for the 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. timeslot. The topic will be “Information Visualization as a Research Methodology.” Scott thought a program with pretty pictures would appeal to people. They can demonstrate how to best present your data. A visual data mining presentation is a possibility. This will be showing examples, applications by presenters that have used this method. Scott will approach Ben Synder (author of Leonardo’s Laptop) about being the program speaker. If Ben cannot, then he could recommend one of his top people. Bob suggested giving CDs of software away at program. A pro-sponsor would be good. This topic will be discussed further via email and at the Midwinter meeting.

13. Statement on evidence-based policy
The committee decided that this issue is tabled until a new ORS Director is hired. Scott doesn’t think that evidence-based research is solid enough for a written policy. A definition of evidence-based librarianship is not available yet, nor is a core of literature on the subject. Steve thought that evidence-based librarianship would be an issue if it
caught on across more professions, but since it hasn’t outside of medicine then CORS doesn’t have to worry about it just yet. Scott will track the progress of this issue in the field.

14. IMLS with Barbara Smith.
   The title of the survey is “Technology and Digitization.” The second survey will be launched within the next couple of weeks. It will be sent to random sample of public and academic libraries. It will also be sent to sample of archives. The survey is largely the same as before with upgrades gleaned from feedback given by professionals like Mary Jo Lynch. The contract for this survey allows that there will be three to four small follow-up studies for IMLS. The committee requested Dan to ask IMLS to provide CORS with copy of the survey. Dan will ask Rebecca Danvers at IMLS. Barbara will see if IMLS would be willing to share the survey instrument. The previous instrument is up on the IMLS site. New for IMLS is the passage of new legislation that expanded research agenda now has the responsibility to gather information on trends within the library community. This information gathering process will take place in the future. Barbara will tell Rebecca to get in touch with this group concerning this process. Dan asked for an update on workforce study. Barbara is not aware of any. Dan might be on an advisory board for this study, but that will be resolved when the winner is selected.

15. Bob asked for the policy of ALA concerning data it has published. Kat replied that it depends on whom you ask. He should ask Mary Jo or Gerald for assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27p.m.